

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5-11, and 13-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5-11, 14-20, 23, 27, and 29-32 are amended, and claim 1 is cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Claims, 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31 are the independent claims.

Request for Priority Acknowledgement

Applicant respectfully notes that the present action does not indicate that the claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 has been acknowledged or that certified copies of all priority documents have been received by the U.S.P.T.O. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's next communication include an indication as to the claim to foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 and an acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copies of all priority documents.

Further, Applicant respectfully notes that this application is based on PCT/SE2004/001178, filed August 9, 2004, which claims foreign priority to Swedish Patent Applications SE 0302175-5, filed on August 7, 2003 and SE 2004/000988, filed June 18, 2004. Accordingly, since this national stage application is based on a PCT, it is noted the USPTO, as a Designated Office, should have obtain certified copies of the priority documents from the International Bureau (IB) – see **MPEP 1893.03(c)**. Therefore, certified copies of the foreign applications are not required by Applicant, and respectfully requests the USPTO to obtain the certified copies of the priority documents from the IB.

Entry of After Final Amendment

Entry of this amendment is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) **place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein**; (b) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; (c) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (d) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 18-32 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, Applicant has rewritten claims 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31, in independent form, including all of the limitations of base claim 1. Therefore, claims 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31, are now in condition for allowance.

Objection to the Claims

Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of informalities.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 6, as suggested by the Examiner, to obviate the objections. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, and 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,500,424 to Barbano et al. ("the Barbano reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,285,336 to Zimmerman.

By the instant amendment, allowable claims 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31 have been rewritten in independent form, thus, rendering the rejection moot. Accordingly, claims 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and a notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Further, because the remaining claims, viz. claims 2, 8, 9, 11, 13-17, 21, 22, 24-26, 28-30, and 32 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable claims 3, 5-7, 10, 18-20, 23, 27, and 31, these claims are believed to be similarly allowable as depending from an allowable base claim.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 2, 8, 9, 11, and 13-17 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks and amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that each of the pending objections and rejections has been addressed and overcome, placing the present application in condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Further, the above remarks demonstrate the failings of the outstanding rejections, and are sufficient to overcome the rejections. However, these remarks are not intended to, nor need they, comprehensively address each and every reason for the patentability of the claimed subject matter over the applied prior art. Accordingly, Applicant does not contend that the claims are patentable solely on the basis of the particular claim elements discussed above.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned, at the telephone number below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

HARNESS, DICKEY, & PIERCE, P.L.C.

By



John A. Castellano, Reg. No. 35,094

P.O. Box 8910
Reston, Virginia 20195
(703) 668-8000

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